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LETTERS

Sound of success?

Regarding your article “Meet your future workspace” in the June 2006 issue: I work in the West tower of building 4-81.3, which is shown on pages 12 and 13, and I wear earplugs at my desk. The noise as they work on the wing line in the factory can be continuous (except for factory work breaks and lunch time)—and I am not even located above the wing line!

Yes, I’ve heard the argument that the noise is a sign of Boeing making money. I’m just wondering if those who are touting how wonderful this “Future Workspace” environment is have ever actually had to sit near the wing line.

—Shawna Calhoun
Renton, Wash.

Your story “Meet your future workspace” presented many great ideas regarding Boeing’s plans for the workplace of tomorrow. As the article stated, one of the primary objectives of the new work environment is to increase productivity. The story described new ways to encourage cooperation and collaboration among Boeing employees, and this is commendable.

However, another obvious way to increase productivity is to provide settings within Boeing facilities where we can concentrate on our work with minimal distractions. This issue was not addressed anywhere in the article. Why not? Many jobs at Boeing are highly technical, and many of our projects require great attention to detail. A noisy workplace can be devastating to productivity. It is essential that Boeing provide an atmosphere that is conducive to concentration, as well as collaboration.

—Richard Fuhr
Everett, Wash.

Letters guidelines

Boeing Frontiers provides its letters page for readers to state their opinions. The page is intended to encourage an exchange of ideas and information that stimulates dialogue on issues or events in the company or the aerospace industry.

“I’m just wondering if those who are touting how wonderful this ‘Future Workspace’ environment is have ever actually had to sit near the wing line.”

—Shawna M. Calhoun
Renton, Wash.



Safe biking

With the warmer summer temperatures upon us, more people are biking to work. This letter is to those select few who climb on their bicycles in the morning and leave their brains behind.

I almost hit one of you at the Everett, Wash., plant when I was driving in to work because you were wearing black—which isn’t easy to pick out of the background at 5:30 a.m. Also, you weren’t wearing a helmet, and you decided that bicyclists can ignore red lights at intersections. I wish I could single you out, but you have quite a few other brothers and sisters out there who ride their bikes as if they were indestructible.

I sure hope that you don’t display the same reckless abandon in your work at Boeing.

To all the rest of you bicyclists out there, continue being safe, making yourself visible,

and you’ll make life just a little bit easier and safer for all.

—F.A. Borowiecki
Everett, Wash.

Bravo, Boeing

In a recent U.S. Navy News Clips dispatch, I saw an article from the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* saying that Boeing employees called to active military duty under Sept. 11–related orders between June 2004 and March 2006 would receive a \$3,000 lump sum payment from Boeing

in recognition of their service.

This is an outstanding gesture and makes me even more proud to be associated with Boeing.

—Clay Fulcher
Houston

Reserve(d) irony

Note with some degree of irony that Boeing has chosen to provide lump-sum payments to reserve employees who serve on extended active duty. I served for approximately 21 years on active duty and in the reserves. All that I can recall receiving during my reserve service was grumbling concerning the inconvenience caused when I departed for active duty and grumbling when I returned from my “vacation.” Due to the way the company determined military “differential” pay, there was not much money in it either. What a difference a decade or two makes.

—John Jenkins
Kent, Wash.

The opinions may not necessarily reflect those of The Boeing Company. Letters must include name, organization and a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters may be edited for grammar, syntax and size.